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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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Sir:

In compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants direct the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449 along with an Japanese Office Action mailed October 5, 2004. This paper is being filed within the time periods set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b).

A copy of each non-U.S. document is enclosed herewith.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge Deposit Account No. <u>50-2866</u>.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: PTO Form 1449; 2 References and Japanese Office Action